

5           wherein said quantity, said amount, and said association provide said water- based  
6           drilling fluid effective rheology and fluid loss control properties  
7           comprising low shear rate viscosity; and  
8           a concentration of non-toxic water emulsifiable material as an internal phase, said  
9           surfactant being effective to emulsify said water emulsifiable material and  
10          to produce emulsion droplets having an average diameter of about 30  
11          microns or less.

1           272. (Amended) A water-based drilling fluid comprising:  
2           an aqueous base fluid;  
3           at least about 2 lb./bbl. water soluble polymer; and,  
4           at least about 0.2 lb./bbl. of a surfactant in association with said water soluble  
5           polymer;  
6           wherein said water soluble polymer, said surfactant, and said association provide  
7           said water- based drilling fluid with effective rheology and fluid loss  
8           control properties comprising low shear rate viscosity.

1           329. (Amended) A water-based drilling fluid comprising:  
2           an aqueous base fluid;  
3           about 7.5 lb./bbl. water soluble polymer; and,  
4           about 2 lb./bbl. of a surfactant in association with said water soluble polymer;  
5           wherein said water soluble polymer, said surfactant, and said association provide  
6           said water- based drilling fluid with effective rheology and fluid loss  
7           control properties comprising low shear viscosity.

- 1        392. (New) A water-based drilling fluid comprising:  
2              an aqueous base fluid;  
3              a quantity of about 2 lb/bbl. or more of water soluble polymer; and,  
4              an amount of surfactant in association with said water soluble polymer;  
5              wherein said quantity, said amount, and said association provide said water  
6              soluble polymer with effective rheology and fluid loss control properties  
7              comprising low shear rate viscosity.
- 1        393. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 392 wherein said low shear  
2        rate viscosity comprises about 70,000 cP or more upon exposure to 0.3 rpm.
- 1        394. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 392 wherein said low shear  
2        rate viscosity comprises about 100,000 cP or more upon exposure to 0.3 rpm.
- 1        395. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 392 further comprising a  
2        concentration of non-toxic water emulsifiable material as an internal phase, said quantity  
3        being sufficient to provide effective lubrication properties to said drilling fluid.
- 1        396. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 393 further comprising a  
2        concentration of non-toxic water emulsifiable material as an internal phase, said quantity  
3        being sufficient to provide effective lubrication properties to said drilling fluid.
- 1        397. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 392 wherein said fluid  
2        consists essentially of additives other than a solid bridging agent.
- 1        398. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 396 wherein said fluid  
2        consists essentially of additives other than a solid bridging agent.

1           399. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 392 wherein said water-  
2 soluble polymer comprises xanthan polysaccharides.

1           400. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 396 wherein said water-  
2 soluble polymer comprises xanthan polysaccharides.

1           401. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 398 wherein said water-  
2 soluble polymer comprises xanthan polysaccharides.

1           402. (New) A water-based drilling fluid comprising:  
2           an aqueous base fluid;  
3           a quantity of about 2 lb/bbl. or more of water soluble polymer;  
4           an amount of surfactant in association with said water soluble polymer;  
5           wherein said quantity, said amount, and said association provide said water- based  
6           drilling fluid effective rheology and fluid loss control properties  
7           comprising low shear rate viscosity; and  
8           a concentration of non-toxic water emulsifiable material as an internal phase, said  
9           surfactant being effective to emulsify said water emulsifiable material and  
10          to produce emulsion droplets having an average diameter of about 30  
11          microns or less.

1           403. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 402 wherein said low shear  
2 rate viscosity comprises about 70,000 cP or more upon exposure to 0.3 rpm.

1           404. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 402 wherein said low shear  
2 rate viscosity comprises about 100,000 cP or more upon exposure to 0.3 rpm.

1           405. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 402 further comprising a  
2 concentration of non-toxic water emulsifiable material as an internal phase, said quantity  
3 being sufficient to provide effective lubrication properties to said drilling fluid.

1           406. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 403 further comprising a  
2 concentration of non-toxic water emulsifiable material as an internal phase, said quantity  
3 being sufficient to provide effective lubrication properties to said drilling fluid.

1           407. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 404 further comprising a  
2 concentration of non-toxic water emulsifiable material as an internal phase, said quantity  
3 being sufficient to provide effective lubrication properties to said drilling fluid.

1           408. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 402 wherein said fluid  
2 consists essentially of additives other than a solid bridging agent.

1           409. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 407 wherein said fluid  
2 consists essentially of additives other than a solid bridging agent.

1           410. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 401 wherein said water-  
2 soluble polymer comprises xanthan polysaccharides.

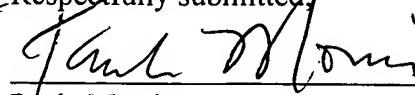
1           411. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 407 wherein said water-  
2 soluble polymer comprises xanthan polysaccharides.

1           412. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 409 wherein said water-  
2 soluble polymer comprises xanthan polysaccharides.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this response, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-0429 maintained by Baker Hughes Incorporated.

Respectfully submitted,



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